

question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 83.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H.R. 83, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 420, nays 1, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 640]

YEAS—420

Abercrombie	Costello	Grijalva
Ackerman	Cox	Gutierrez
Aderholt	Cramer	Gutknecht
Akin	Crane	Hall
Alexander	Crenshaw	Harman
Allen	Crowley	Harris
Baca	Culberson	Hart
Bachus	Cummings	Hastings (FL)
Baird	Cunningham	Hastings (WA)
Baker	Davis (AL)	Hayes
Baldwin	Davis (CA)	Hayworth
Ballance	Davis (FL)	Hefley
Ballenger	Davis (IL)	Hensarling
Barrett (SC)	Davis (TN)	Herger
Bartlett (MD)	Davis, Jo Ann	Hill
Barton (TX)	Davis, Tom	Hinche
Bass	Deal (GA)	Hinojosa
Beauprez	DeFazio	Hobson
Becerra	DeGette	Hoeffel
Bell	Delahunt	Hoekstra
Bereuter	DeLauro	Holden
Berkley	DeLay	Holt
Berman	Deutsch	Honda
Berry	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hooley (OR)
Biggert	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hostettler
Bilirakis	Dicks	Houghton
Bishop (GA)	Dingell	Hoyer
Bishop (UT)	Doggett	Hulshof
Blackburn	Dooley (CA)	Hyde
Blumenauer	Doolittle	Inslee
Blunt	Doyle	Israel
Boehlert	Dreier	Issa
Boehner	Duncan	Istook
Bonilla	Dunn	Jackson (IL)
Bonner	Edwards	Jackson-Lee
Bono	Ehlers	(TX)
Boozman	Emanuel	Janklow
Boswell	Emerson	Jefferson
Boucher	Engel	Jenkins
Boyd	English	John
Bradley (NH)	Eshoo	Johnson (CT)
Brady (PA)	Etheridge	Johnson (IL)
Brady (TX)	Evans	Johnson, E. B.
Brown (OH)	Everett	Johnson, Sam
Brown (SC)	Farr	Jones (NC)
Brown, Corrine	Fattah	Jones (OH)
Brown-Waite,	Feeney	Kanjorski
Ginny	Ferguson	Kaptur
Burgess	Filner	Keller
Burns	Flake	Kelly
Burr	Foley	Kennedy (MN)
Burton (IN)	Forbes	Kennedy (RI)
Buyer	Ford	Kildee
Calvert	Fossella	Kilpatrick
Camp	Frank (MA)	Kind
Cannon	Franks (AZ)	King (IA)
Cantor	Frelinghuysen	King (NY)
Capito	Frost	Kingston
Capps	Gallegly	Kirk
Capuano	Garrett (NJ)	Klecza
Cardin	Gerlach	Kline
Cardoza	Gibbons	Knollenberg
Carson (IN)	Gilchrest	Kolbe
Carson (OK)	Gillmor	Kucinich
Carter	Gingrey	LaHood
Case	Gonzalez	Lampson
Castle	Goode	Langevin
Chabot	Goodlatte	Lantos
Chocola	Gordon	Larsen (WA)
Clay	Goss	Larson (CT)
Clyburn	Granger	Latham
Coble	Graves	LaTourette
Cole	Green (TX)	Leach
Conyers	Green (WI)	Lee
Cooper	Greenwood	Levin

Lewis (CA)	Otter	Shimkus
Lewis (GA)	Owens	Shuster
Lewis (KY)	Oxley	Simmons
Linder	Pallone	Simpson
Lipinski	Pascarell	Skelton
LoBiondo	Pastor	Slaughter
Lofgren	Payne	Smith (MI)
Lowey	Pearce	Smith (NJ)
Lucas (KY)	Pelosi	Smith (TX)
Lucas (OK)	Pence	Snyder
Lynch	Peterson (MN)	Solis
Majette	Peterson (PA)	Souder
Maloney	Petri	Spratt
Manzullo	Pickering	Stark
Markey	Pitts	Stearns
Marshall	Platts	Stenholm
Matheson	Pombo	Strickland
Matsui	Pomeroy	Stupak
McCarthy (MO)	Porter	Sweeney
McCarthy (NY)	Portman	Tancredo
McCollum	Price (NC)	Tanner
McCotter	Putnam	Tauscher
McCrery	Quinn	Tauzin
McDermott	Radanovich	Taylor (MS)
McGovern	Rahall	Taylor (NC)
McHugh	Ramstad	Terry
McInnis	Rangel	Thomas
McIntyre	Regula	Thompson (CA)
McKeon	Rehberg	Thompson (MS)
McNulty	Renzi	Thornberry
Meehan	Reyes	Tiahrt
Meek (FL)	Reynolds	Tiberi
Meeks (NY)	Rodriguez	Tierney
Menendez	Rogers (AL)	Towns
Mica	Rogers (KY)	Turner (OH)
Michaud	Rogers (MI)	Turner (TX)
Millender	Rohrabacher	Udall (CO)
McDonald	Ros-Lehtinen	Udall (NM)
Miller (FL)	Ross	Upton
Miller (MI)	Rothman	Van Hollen
Miller (NC)	Roybal-Allard	Velazquez
Miller, Gary	Royce	Visclosky
Miller, George	Ruppersberger	Vitter
Mollohan	Rush	Walden (OR)
Moore	Ryan (OH)	Walsh
Moran (KS)	Ryan (WI)	Wamp
Moran (VA)	Ryun (KS)	Waters
Murphy	Sabo	Watson
Murtha	Sanchez, Linda	Watt
Musgrave	T.	Waxman
Myrick	Sanchez, Loretta	Weiner
Nadler	Sanders	Weldon (FL)
Napolitano	Sandlin	Weldon (PA)
Neal (MA)	Saxton	Weller
Nethercutt	Schakowsky	Wexler
Neugebauer	Schiff	Whitfield
Ney	Schrock	Wicker
Northup	Scott (GA)	Wilson (NM)
Norwood	Scott (VA)	Wilson (SC)
Nunes	Sensenbrenner	Wolf
Nussle	Serrano	Woolsey
Oberstar	Sessions	Wu
Obey	Shadegg	Wynn
Olver	Shaw	Young (AK)
Ortiz	Shays	Young (FL)
Osborne	Sherman	
Ose	Sherwood	

NAYS—1

Paul
NOT VOTING—13

Andrews	Fletcher	Smith (WA)
Bishop (NY)	Gephardt	Sullivan
Collins	Hunter	Toomey
Cubin	Isakson	
DeMint	Pryce (OH)	

□ 1639

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

POISON CONTROL CENTER ENHANCEMENT AND AWARENESS ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2003

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 686) to provide assistance

for poison prevention and to stabilize the funding of regional poison control centers, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 686

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Poison Control Center Enhancement and Awareness Act Amendments of 2003".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Poison control centers are our Nation's primary defense against injury and deaths from poisoning. Twenty-four hours a day, the general public as well as health care practitioners contact their local poison centers for help in diagnosing and treating victims of poisoning and other toxic exposures.

(2) Poisoning is the third most common form of unintentional death in the United States. In any given year, there will be between 2,000,000 and 4,000,000 poison exposures. More than 50 percent of these exposures will involve children under the age of 6 who are exposed to toxic substances in their home. Poisoning accounts for 285,000 hospitalizations, 1,200,000 days of acute hospital care, and 13,000 fatalities annually.

(3) Stabilizing the funding structure and increasing accessibility to poison control centers will promote the utilization of poison control centers, and reduce the inappropriate use of emergency medical services and other more costly health care services.

(4) The tragic events of September 11, 2001, and the anthrax cases of October 2001, have dramatically changed our Nation. During this time period, poison centers in many areas of the country were answering thousands of additional calls from concerned residents. Many poison centers were relied upon as a source for accurate medical information about the disease and the complications resulting from prophylactic antibiotic therapy.

(5) The 2001 Presidential Task Force on Citizen Preparedness in the War on Terrorism recommended that the Poison Control Centers be used as a source of public information and public education regarding potential biological, chemical, and nuclear domestic terrorism.

(6) The increased demand placed upon poison centers to provide emergency information in the event of a terrorist event involving a biological, chemical, or nuclear toxin will dramatically increase call volume.

SEC. 3. AMENDMENT TO PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT.

Title XII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"PART G—POISON CONTROL

"SEC. 1271. MAINTENANCE OF A NATIONAL TOLL-FREE NUMBER.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide coordination and assistance to regional poison control centers for the establishment of a nationwide toll-free phone number to be used to access such centers.

"(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting the establishment or continued operation of any privately funded nationwide toll-free phone number used to provide advice and other assistance for poisonings or accidental exposures.

"(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$2,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2000 through 2009. Funds appropriated under this subsection shall not be used to fund any toll-free phone number described in subsection (b).

"SEC. 1272. NATIONWIDE MEDIA CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE POISON CONTROL CENTER UTILIZATION.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a national media campaign to educate the public and health care providers about poison prevention and the availability of poison control resources in local communities and to conduct advertising campaigns concerning the nationwide toll-free number established under section 1271.

"(b) CONTRACT WITH ENTITY.—The Secretary may carry out subsection (a) by entering into contracts with 1 or more nationally recognized media firms for the development and distribution of monthly television, radio, and newspaper public service announcements.

"(c) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall—

"(1) establish baseline measures and benchmarks to quantitatively evaluate the impact of the nationwide media campaign established under this section; and

"(2) prepare and submit to the appropriate congressional committees an evaluation of the nationwide media campaign on an annual basis.

"(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$600,000 for each of fiscal years 2000 through 2005 and such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2009.

"SEC. 1273. MAINTENANCE OF THE POISON CONTROL CENTER GRANT PROGRAM.

"(a) REGIONAL POISON CONTROL CENTERS.—The Secretary shall award grants to certified regional poison control centers for the purposes of achieving the financial stability of such centers, and for preventing and providing treatment recommendations for poisonings.

"(b) OTHER IMPROVEMENTS.—The Secretary shall also use amounts received under this section to—

"(1) develop standardized poison prevention and poison control promotion programs;

"(2) develop standard patient management guidelines for commonly encountered toxic exposures;

"(3) improve and expand the poison control data collection systems, including, at the Secretary's discretion, by assisting the poison control centers to improve data collection activities;

"(4) improve national toxic exposure surveillance by enhancing activities at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry;

"(5) expand the toxicologic expertise within poison control centers; and

"(6) improve the capacity of poison control centers to answer high volumes of calls during times of national crisis.

"(c) CERTIFICATION.—Except as provided in subsection (d), the Secretary may make a grant to a center under subsection (a) only if—

"(1) the center has been certified by a professional organization in the field of poison control, and the Secretary has approved the organization as having in effect standards for certification that reasonably provide for the protection of the public health with respect to poisoning; or

"(2) the center has been certified by a State government, and the Secretary has approved the State government as having in effect standards for certification that reasonably provide for the protection of the public health with respect to poisoning.

"(d) WAIVER OF CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may grant a waiver of the certification requirement of subsection (c) with respect to a noncertified poison control center or a newly established

center that applies for a grant under this section if such center can reasonably demonstrate that the center will obtain such a certification within a reasonable period of time as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

"(2) RENEWAL.—The Secretary may renew a waiver under paragraph (1).

"(3) LIMITATION.—In no instance may the sum of the number of years for a waiver under paragraph (1) and a renewal under paragraph (2) exceed 5 years. The preceding sentence shall take effect as if enacted on February 25, 2000.

"(e) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Amounts made available to a poison control center under this section shall be used to supplement and not supplant other Federal, State, or local funds provided for such center.

"(f) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—A poison control center, in utilizing the proceeds of a grant under this section, shall maintain the expenditures of the center for activities of the center at a level that is not less than the level of such expenditures maintained by the center for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which the grant is received.

"(g) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary may impose a matching requirement with respect to amounts provided under a grant under this section if the Secretary determines appropriate.

"(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$25,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2000 through 2004 and \$27,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009.

"SEC. 1274. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

"Nothing in this part may be construed to ease any restriction in Federal law applicable to the amount or percentage of funds appropriated to carry out this part that may be used to prepare or submit a report."

SEC. 4. CONFORMING AMENDMENT.

The Poison Control Center Enhancement and Awareness Act (42 U.S.C. 14801 et seq.) is hereby repealed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 686.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 686, the Poison Control Center Enhancement and Awareness Act amendments.

This bill, Mr. Speaker, amends the Poison Control Enhancement and Awareness Act to provide additional assistance for poison prevention and to stabilize the funding of regional poison control centers.

I would like to extend my thanks first to my colleague, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), for all of his work on this important legislation

and also add to that list the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS), who has been very interested in this subject for a long time, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON), Senator DEWINE, and, of course, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the others who have been so very cooperative.

Poisoning is the third most common form of unintentional death in the United States. Many of these exposures involve children. Poison control centers are a primary defense against injury and death from poisoning.

In the events since September 11, poison centers have taken on the additional role, Mr. Speaker, of providing medical information about biological, chemical, and nuclear domestic terrorism. S. 686 would authorize funds to maintain national toll-free poison control hotlines and the Poison Control Center Grant Program. Additionally, the legislation would create a nationwide media campaign to promote poison control center utilization and to allow the Secretary to assist in the implementation and maintenance of continuous national surveillance of poison control center data to detect new hazards from toxic substances, household products and pharmaceuticals.

□ 1645

I urge my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to support this important legislation that the Senate has passed.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank my colleagues, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS), my friend, and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), for their hard work on this bill, as well as my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), with whom we have worked so well.

Every day these specially trained staff of pharmacists and nurses at poison control centers across the country field calls from frantic parents concerned that their child ingested a poisonous substance. They field calls from an elderly couple with questions about whether one medication might cause an adverse reaction if taken with another; and as the events of September 11 and the cases of anthrax have shown us, poison control centers field calls from concerned residents uncertain about the danger they have been exposed to.

Handling an average of one poison exposure call every 15 seconds across the country, these men and women answer questions about poisonings, about drug abuse, about product contents, about adverse reactions.

Legislation we are considering today will enhance the work of poison control centers through improved maintenance of a national toll-free number that is linked to regional poison control centers. This bill will help promote the nationwide media campaign to promote

poison control center utilization. If a person has a problem, they need to know whom to call and they need to know the number, and they need to know that they are reliable. Every parent, every baby-sitter, every coworker, every household, and every office should know how to contact the poison control center closest to them.

This bill from the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) will help develop standardized prevention and poison control centers and will improve national surveillance of toxic exposures. It will improve the collection of data to help detect new hazards, including those found in our homes.

Mr. Speaker, every year roughly 120 children under 14 needlessly die from unintentional poisoning, 120 children under the age of 14. The bill we are considering today can save the lives of many of them. It is an important step towards reversing that trend and saving more children from poison exposure.

I urge my colleagues to support S. 686.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he might require to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), the father of this act.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good chairman who has been instrumental in getting this important piece of legislation to the floor. Again, he has done yeoman's work with so many others here in this body.

Mr. Speaker, as the lead sponsor of the bipartisan House version of the Poison Control Center Enhancement and Awareness Act Amendments of 2003, it is my pleasure to help manage this bill, S. 686, the Senate version of the legislation on the floor today.

What we are doing today is taking up the Senate-passed bill and inserting updated language from our bill. We are doing so because we determined that it was the best way to expedite the final passage of this much-needed legislation reauthorizing and strengthening our Federal commitment to ensuring that our Nation's poison control centers can continue to provide life-saving services to all of our constituents, particularly in these last throes of this session of the Congress.

I want to take this opportunity to particularly acknowledge Senator DEWINE's tremendous leadership on this legislation in the other body and to thank our original cosponsor and colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS), who is on the floor; the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN), committee chairman; and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), the ranking member; the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), the House subcommittee chairman; the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the ranking member; and also for the many staff who have helped. I am grateful for their hard work, particularly Cheryl

Jaeger and John Ford, and for the assistance that we have received from the American Association of Poison Control Centers and Jane Williams on my staff who helped shepherd this through so many juggernauts; and if we had a parking place for the staff member of the month in front of the Capitol, her name would be the first inscribed on that plate.

Mr. Speaker, poison control centers provide vital, very cost-effective services to the American public. Each year, more than 2 million poisonings are reported to poison control centers throughout this country. More than 90 percent of these poisonings occur in the home, and 50 percent of poisoning victims are children under the age of 6. For every dollar spent on poison control services, we save \$7 in medical costs. We prevent a nightmare from happening in virtually any house that uses the phone number and uses these particular facilities.

The horrific events of 9/11 and the anthrax cases the next month brought home the vital role that our Nation's poison control centers must be prepared to play in the event of further terrorist attacks. The 2001 Presidential Task Force on Citizen Preparedness in the War on Terrorism recommended that poison control centers be used as a source of public information and public education regarding potential biological, chemical, and nuclear domestic terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, the passage and enactment of this bill will ensure that our Nation's poison control centers have the resources that they need to fulfill their vital mission as the first line of defense against accidental poisonings and the response to biological, chemical, and nuclear terrorism. I ask that all of the Members join us in voting for this legislation. It will indeed save lives for many Americans.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS), who has worked so hard on this bill.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN), the chairman of the committee; the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), the ranking member; of course, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), the Subcommittee on Health chair; and of course, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the ranking member; and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), who worked very closely with me and also the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN).

Poison control centers have always had broad bipartisan support, and I was delighted once again to join my good friend, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), in sponsoring the House version of the reauthorization.

The role of these centers in basic public health care continues to grow. For example, the Academy of Pediatrics recently urged parents to contact the local poison control centers rather

than using the time-honored method of inducing vomiting in children where poisoning is suspected. Our action today will ensure that poison control centers will be there to answer the call for those frightened parents.

Continued strong Federal funding will help to establish new centers as well. This effort is particularly critical at a time when we are increasingly concerned about poison being used as an element of bioterrorism. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that language was included to ensure that funds under this bill would go directly to the centers for their work and not diverted to costly and unnecessary studies.

I would like to thank the committee leadership and committee staff on both sides of the aisle for moving this legislation expeditiously, and I would urge our Senate colleagues to ensure that the bill is passed with the House modifications prior to our adjournment.

As a result of what we are doing here today, the lives of people will be saved. Not only that, we will save a lot of money because it is cost-productive.

Many times we have youngsters in particular who end up in the emergency room, and it costs a whole lot more to treat a person in the emergency room than to pick up the phone and call the poison control center and for them to tell that mother who has already panicked that all they have to do is take this and let their son or daughter go to sleep. Therefore, I am excited about this because it is cost-saving, and that is something that we should not forget. Anywhere, anytime we can cut corners and save lives at the same time, then I think we should not hesitate to do it.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he might consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON).

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to start off by commending my good friend from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for his excellent leadership on this and my friends on the Democratic side, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL).

The very fact that we have this Poison Control Center Enhancement and Awareness Act Amendments on the floor is helping to depoisson the atmosphere of this House. It is good to be on the floor this afternoon working with our friends on the other side of the aisle instead of throwing bricks back and forth. So the very fact that we are bringing this piece of legislation to the floor is helping depoisson the atmosphere in the House.

This is a piece of legislation that builds on what was done back in 1999 when we authorized these poison control centers. Former Senator Dave Karnes, a former White House Fellow friend of mine from Nebraska, called me on this piece of legislation several weeks ago, asked if I would touch base with the House leadership and encourage them to move it, as it had already

passed the Senate and was awaiting floor time.

I went to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), and they were very willing to put this on a fast track; and, again, I want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for making this part of the package of the bill that is on the floor this afternoon.

There are somewhere between 2 million and 4 million poison exposures each year to our Nation's children. Thankfully, in many cases of those cases, it does not end up in a catastrophic situation; but unfortunately, on occasion, it does.

The bill before us today, when the President signs it, is going to minimize the possibility or the probability that those exposures will result in a catastrophic situation. As a father of three children, when they were at home, we took advantage of many of the programs that are in this act in terms of labeling our household goods and chemicals and medicines so that our younger children saw the little smiley face turned upside down, the little green poison control, and of course, it had the message on it and the phone number to call locally or regionally if one had a problem.

So I rise in strong support of this. I am assured that we are going to have bipartisan endorsement; and, again, I want to thank the leadership for their strong work, and on our side the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and on the Democrat side, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) for their excellent work.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers. I think the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) has one. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I would say that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) was here earlier, before even the votes. He wanted to really speak on this subject because he has a great interest in it, and I appreciate that interest.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he might consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES).

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I want to give my thanks to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), the subcommittee chairman, and the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) for their help and leadership on this vital legislation; and I rise in strong support of S. 686, the Poison Control Enhancement and Awareness Act, and urge my colleagues to enthusiastically support final passage. As a cosponsor of the House version of H.R. 1819, I am pleased we are considering this critical legislation for approval today.

Mr. Speaker, the Poison Control Enhancement and Awareness Act provides essential support to our Nation's poison control centers. A critical component of the legislation would reauthor-

ize a grant program to keep our poison control centers running and prepared for everyday emergencies.

This grant program is vital for the Carolinas Poison Center, which serves all of North Carolina. Carolinas Poison Center provides life-saving help to parents whose children have swallowed something dangerous, physicians who have unexplained illnesses, hospital emergency rooms which know what the toxic exposure was to a patient but need instructions on how to treat it, and many others in need of critical information about toxic exposure. Carolinas Poison Center's ability to continue these essential services depends on the continuation of the essential grant program as provided in Senate 686, which funds approximately one-fourth of its budget.

The tragic events of September 11 and the anthrax cases of October 2001 have dramatically changed our Nation. During this time, the Carolinas Poison Center, as well as poison centers throughout the country, answered thousands of additional calls from concerned residents. The Carolinas Poison Center was utilized by many citizens as the primary source for accurate medical information about anthrax and other potential bioterrorism diseases but also for the complications resulting from prophylactic antibiotic therapy.

□ 1700

Poison control centers throughout the country have become critical sources of local, State and regional bioterrorism response and information in cooperation with the Centers for Disease Control. The Carolinas Poison Center recently completed an analysis of the 2000-2002 human exposure and information call volume, as well as reported human exposure clinical effects in order to determine daily volume and effects baselines, and threshold limits for detection of possible biochemical and disease outbreaks. These results were reported to State public health officials, and software capabilities that enabled Carolinas Poison Control Center were funded, in part, by Federal Prison Control Center grant funds.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleagues on the Committee on Energy and Commerce for their work on this critical legislation, and our leadership for helping to move it forward today. I urge my colleagues to join me in securing passage for this essential legislation.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SWEENEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 686, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of

those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

BIRTH DEFECTS AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PREVENTION ACT OF 2003

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 286) to revise and extend the Birth Defects Prevention Act of 1998.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 286

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities Prevention Act of 2003".

SEC. 2. NATIONAL CENTER ON BIRTH DEFECTS AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

Section 317C of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b-4) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking "and developmental disabilities" and inserting ", developmental disabilities, and disabilities and health"; and

(ii) by striking "subsection (d)(2)" and inserting "subsection (c)(2)";

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking "and" at the end;

(C) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

"(D) to conduct research on and to promote the prevention of such defects and disabilities, and secondary health conditions among individuals with disabilities; and

"(E) to support a National Spina Bifida Program to prevent and reduce suffering from the Nation's most common permanently disabling birth defect.";

(2) by striking subsection (b);

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

"(1) contains information regarding the incidence and prevalence of birth defects, developmental disabilities, and the health status of individuals with disabilities and the extent to which these conditions have contributed to the incidence and prevalence of infant mortality and affected quality of life;"

(B) in paragraph (3), by inserting ", developmental disabilities, and secondary health conditions among individuals with disabilities" after "defects";

(C) in paragraph (4), by striking "and" at the end;

(D) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (7); and

(E) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

"(5) contains information on the incidence and prevalence of individuals living with birth defects and disabilities or developmental disabilities, information on the health status of individuals with disabilities, information on any health disparities experienced by such individuals, and recommendations for improving the health and wellness and quality of life of such individuals;